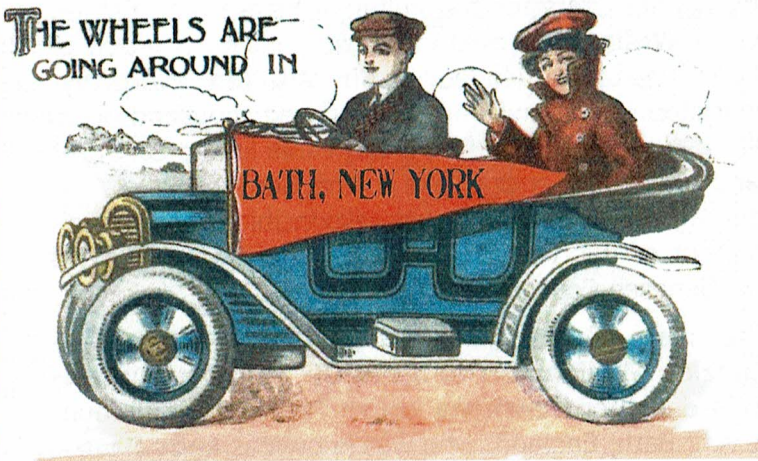


The Steuben County Historical Society presents:

**A Driving Tour to
Historic Places
and
Areas of Interest
around
the Village of Bath NY,
the County Seat of
Steuben County**





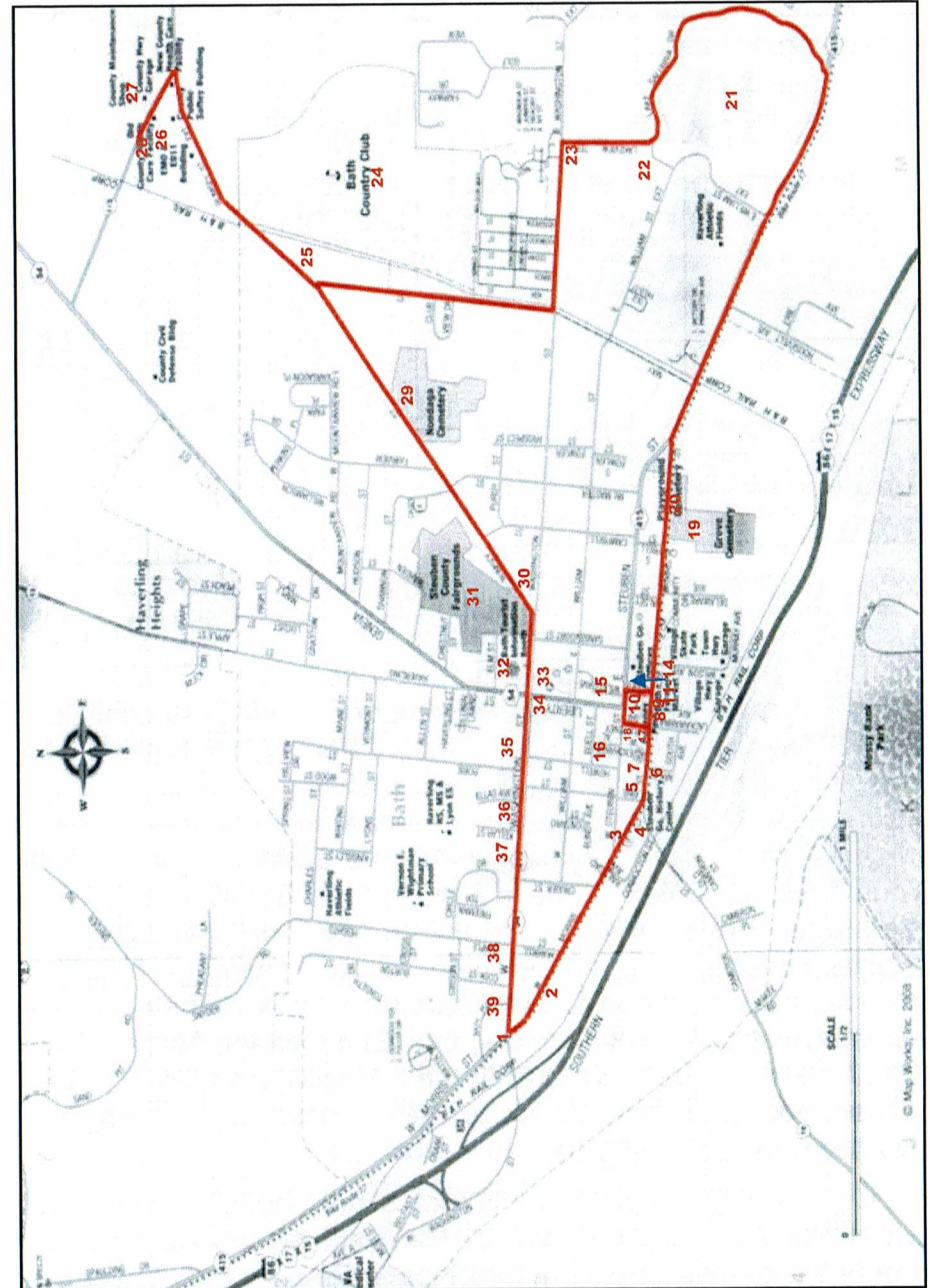
The Village of Bath

The village of Bath, the county seat of Steuben County, has about 6000 residents. Located on the Conhocton River, it is the southern gateway to the Finger Lakes.

This historic community was founded in 1793 when **Charles Williamson**, land agent for the London based Pulteney Syndicate, settled here and made Bath the headquarters for the Pulteney Estate. The Estate, which **Williamson** held in secret trust for a group of British capitalists headed by **Sir William Pulteney**, consisted of one million, two hundred thousand acres which extended from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario and from Seneca Lake to the Genesee River. As land agent, **Williamson** was responsible for the development of this vast tract of land often referred to as the Genesee Country.

The name of the village and town was selected by **Charles Williamson** to honor **Sir William Pulteney's** daughter **Henrietta Laura Pulteney**, the Countess of Bath, England, who was known as **Lady Bath**.

Map of Village of Bath Showing Driving Route:



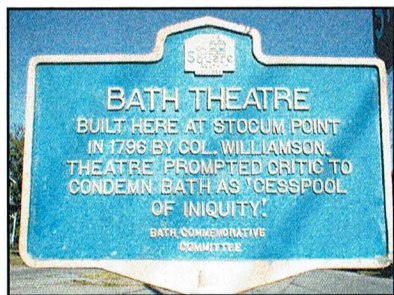
Numbers relate to points of interest described on following pages.

The Driving Tour

1. From Interstate 86, Exit 38, turn right at traffic light onto West Morris Street.

2. Continue on West Morris Street, noting Super 8 Motel on right, Budget Inn & Days Inn on left, & Tops Market on right.

3. Continuing on West Morris Street, note junction with West Steuben Street at Stocum Point on left. The sign was placed



there in 1993 to mark the place where, in 1796, Charles Williamson had a large log building constructed as a theater in an attempt to bring culture & entertainment to the wilderness. The point was later named after Major John Stocum, a Civil War officer who had a funeral home & furniture business

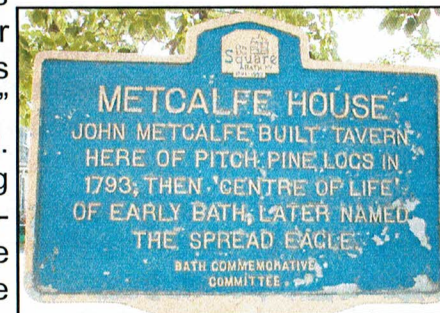
at this junction in the mid & late 1800s.

4. Continue on West Morris Street to the **Dormann Library** on right. Note red brick building just beyond library. That is the **Magee House**, the home of the Steuben County Historical Society & the County Historian's Office. Parking for both buildings is behind the library & can be reached by turning right at next intersection (Cameron Street) & then right again on Conhocton Street. Library hours are 10 to 8 on Mondays through Thursdays, 10 to 4 on Fridays & 10 to 2 on Saturdays. Inside the Magee House, which was built in 1831, are genealogies, atlases & maps, church & cemetery records, marriage & death information, directories & gazetteers, census & probate indexes, yearbooks, old newspapers, the Elm Cottage Museum, & the Chelsea & Liliane Kelly Children's Museum & Library. The Magee House is open 10 AM to 3 PM Tuesdays through Fridays, telephone 776-9930..

5. Continue on West Morris Street & note house located on left at **No. 22**. Built ca 1810 by Ira Pratt, this house may be one of the earliest surviving buildings in Bath. It is noteworthy for its long five-bay façade, its cornice returns, the intact door surrounds with sidelights, & six over six original windows.

6. Across the street at No. 23 is the **Beekman House** which was built in 1868 by Abram Beekman on land given to him & his wife Sarah by John Fowler, Sarah's father. Mr. Fowler had come to Bath from England to be an agent for the Pulteney Land Office. Look for the third floor windows, wide overhang, & fancy corbel brackets on this Italianate style house, all complemented by the central tower.

7. Continue on West Morris Street & note historical marker on left in front of **No. 14**: This was the first "public house" erected in the new settlement. It served as a place of lodging for land purchasers & for judges & others who came to the area. Town meetings were also held in the tavern.



8. After crossing Lackawanna Street, note the historical marker on the lawn near the church:

9. Next is the **First Presbyterian Church** which was built in the mid-1870s to replace the church which was located on this site since 1825. It is the only remaining church in the U.



S. designed by architect Jacob Wrey Mould who was famous for designing churches in Europe & South America as well as in this country. The construction is of local sandstone & the style is Venetian Gothic. The sanctuary was designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany in 1895-97 and is one of the very few Tiffany-designed sanctuaries remaining in the U. S. The sanctuary is open for tours on Wednesdays during July & August from 10 AM to 1 PM & at other times by appointment (607-776-6464).

10. Directly across the street is **Pulteney Square/Park**, the area of the first clearing made in Bath by the pioneers in 1793. Bath started with a few cabins here. One cabin served as

Charles Williamson's land agent house from which the vast Pulteney Purchase was administered. A few cabins were homes for the new settlers & early businessmen. By 1804 the area had grown into a compact community with Pulteney Square as its hub. During the summer months a Farmers' Market is held here on Wednesdays & Saturdays.

11. Turn left on East Pulteney Square which is adjacent to the east side of Pulteney Park. The **Balcom House**, the first building on the right, was built in 1819 by Robert Campbell, one of Bath's earliest & finest builders. One of the oldest building in Bath still in its original location, it is one of Bath's architectural gems!

12. Next is the **County Surrogate's Office** which was built of natural brick in 1886. Its Romanesque style features arched windows & doorway. Interesting brickwork is exhibited on the second floor windows.

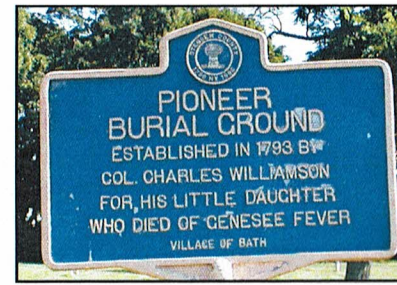
13. Next is the **County Clerk's Office**. This was built in 1872 & is a Victorian style natural brick with good strong lines. The tower entrance appears as an adaptation of the Tuscan Villa style.

14. The last building on the right is the **Steuben County Court House** which was built in 1860 to replace the previous courthouse which had burned. It was constructed of brick salvaged from the previous building. On 21 July 1796, the first Court of Common Pleas was held in the original courthouse on this site.

15. Directly ahead on East Steuben Street is the **Old National Hotel**. It is on the site of the Nichols House that had been built there in 1869 & burned in 1910. The current building of unusual concrete block design with the use of brick for cornice & piers on the ground floor was completed in 1914.

16. Turn left onto East Steuben Street & proceed through the intersection with Liberty Street to the **Pioneer Cemetery** on the right. Note the historical marker inside fence.

As the marker states, the first burial here was that of Charles Williamson's 7 year old daughter Christian who died from the



Genessee Fever in September 1793. The cemetery was in use for one hundred years & contains the remains of many of Bath's earliest settlers.

17. Turn around at Howell Street & return to West Pulteney Square. Turn right & note the large brick building on the right. It was built in 1832 by John Magee (the same man who built the Magee House in 1831 - see #4) as the Steuben Bank. After closing as a bank in 1864, it became the home of the Steuben Club, a men's social organization. In 1920 it became the home of the Bath Masonic Lodge & served as such for the next 80 years. It now contains offices & apartments.

18. Next on the right at 16 West Pulteney Square is the **Barber House**. This pre-fab structure was constructed in 1893 by Bert Barber & was what is known as a pattern book house. These houses were usually built near railroad tracks because the sections arrived in boxes on railroad flat cars.

19. At intersection turn left onto East Morris Street & proceed past the Presbyterian Church. Note on the right **St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church** built in 1892, the **Bath Fire Department** built in 2007, & **Grove Cemetery**. The land for this cemetery was donated to the Episcopal Church in 1843. Initially it was for the use of church members only but now, & for the past many years, plots are available to the public. Many of Bath's most prominent citizens are buried here. Walking among the tombstones, which date back to 1819, is like reading the names in a Bath history book. The Campbell & the Rumsey family cemeteries are adjacent to the east side of Grove Cemetery.

20. Located adjacent to the east side of the two family cemeteries & Grove Cemetery is **Holy Cross Cemetery**, which was established by the Roman Catholic Diocese in 1864.

21. Continue on East Morris Street to intersection with East Steuben Street. Bear right & drive about 1 mile to **Lake Salu-**

bria on left. Bath's founder Charles Williamson named this lake "Salubrious" which means "favorable to health or well-being." Williamson's residence, Springfield Farm, reached a total of 900 acres & included all of the land around the lake. This 65 foot deep lake is fed by underground springs &, at one time, was home to paddle boats, a dance pavilion, & the Moonlit Restaurant. The lovely white house across the road on the right was once the Salubria Inn & the Bath Country Club. As you can see, it has been beautifully restored & is now a private residence.

22. Immediately past the lake, turn left onto Lake Salubria Drive & proceed to intersection with Lakeview Terrace on the right. As you turn right, note the large building on the left about 300 feet from the intersection. This was once a **Ukrainian Catholic Church** which closed its doors in 1993. The building now contains several apartments.

23. Proceed on Lakeview Terrace to intersection with East Washington Street. Looking ahead note the rooftops of the manufactured homes in **Lake Country Estates**, a community of some 226 homes.

24. Turn left onto East Washington Street & proceed to intersection with May Street which is immediately across the railroad tracks. Turn right onto May Street & proceed to the **Bath Country Club** on right. The Club features an 18 hole golf course & a full service restaurant & lounge which is open to the public.

25. Continue on May Street to intersection with Rumsey Street. Turn right & note the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** (Mormon) on the right. This church was constructed in 2003/4 at a cost of over \$1 million.

26. Continue on Rumsey Street Extension & note on left the 911 & the **County Public Safety Buildings & the Steuben County Jail**. Next on the left is the **Steuben County Health Care Facility** which was opened in 2008.

27. Immediately past the Health Care Facility turn left onto Mt. Washington Road (County Route 113). Note County Highway Garage on right. Next to it in what appears to be an empty lot

is the **Old County Farm Home Annex Cemetery**. The cemetery markers lie flat on the ground & are mostly covered by the grass. The markers are numbered & the corresponding names are posted on the signs in front of the cemetery along the roadside.

28. Note the empty building across from the cemetery. This was the previous County Health Care Facility which was vacated when the new one was opened. Turn around in its parking area & return to intersection with Rumsey Street Extension.

29. Turn right & proceed one half mile to **Nondaga Cemetery** on left. Nondaga is a Seneca Indian word meaning "the pillow where the land rests". Originally this cemetery was called The Pillow of Rest Cemetery.

30. Continue on Rumsey Street to the last house on left which is on corner of Rumsey & East Washington Street. This house, built about 1850, is an adobe house & is the only adobe house in the county today. Adobe, a mixture of clay & straw, was made by placing the mixture in boxes & placing them in the sun to dry. The "bricks" from the boxes would serve as building pieces for the house. The adobe was covered by stucco to prevent wind & rain damage. This house was built by Robert B. Van Valkenburg, a prominent Bath lawyer, who was a mayor of Bath, a Civil War General, a U. S. Congressman, & who, in 1867, became the first U. S. Ambassador to Japan.

31. Turn right at intersection onto East Washington Street & note the **Steuben County Fairgrounds** on the right. Commencing in 1819, this fair is the longest continuously running fair in the U. S. It is held annually during the second week in August. Note the **District 11 Schoolhouse** on the grounds, a one-room school which was moved to this site and is maintained for educational purposes by the Steuben County Historical Society, open during Fair Week and by appointment.

32. Continue on East Washington Street to intersection with Liberty Street at traffic light. Note the vacant **Dana Lyon School** building on the NE corner. This building, which was

built in 1923, sits on the location of the Haverling Union School which was built there in 1848. This present building was closed in 2002 when the student population was transferred to the **Haverling School District Campus** on Ellas Avenue.

33. Located adjacent to the SE corner of the intersection is **St. Thomas Episcopal Church** which was built in 1869/71. Its style is Gothic Revival, a specialty of the architect Henry Dudley. It replaced the original church which was erected in 1836 on Pulteney Square.

34. Proceed through the intersection & note the **Centenary United Methodist Church** on the left. It was built in 1976/77 to replace the Methodist Church that was located there since 1866. Stained glass windows from the church which burned in 1866 are incorporated in the present building as is the 1866 church cornerstone

35. Continuing past the church note the house on the right at **#16** on the east corner of Robie Street. This large late Greek Revival house, built in 1847, is noteworthy for its masonry construction, its stone sills & lintels, its wide frieze & for its cornice returns. The five-bay-to-the-street configuration is an early Greek Revival form. In 1826 Reuben Robie, who founded the Robie Dry Goods Store which flourished through the 19th century, had this house constructed for his large family just before he was elected to serve in the U. S. Congress.

36. Continue on West Washington Street to the large house at **No.110** on the west corner of Ellas Avenue. Completed in 1873, the house was built for William Shepard, a Bath insurance man, & his wife Adelaide Church Shepard. Set on a high basement of coarse ashlar stone, this ell-shaped Italianate house is notable for its tall tower which is distinguished by intact cresting, pairs of round arch windows with stone hoods on the east & south elevations, & the bull's eye window in the gable end. The house is known locally as the "Hamilton" house since it was most recently owned by the W. Knight Hamilton family.

37. Continue on West Washington Street & note on the right the cobblestone house at **#120** just past Keller Street. Built ca

1851, this large five-bay Greek Revival structure is important as the southernmost example of cobblestone masonry in New York State.

38. Continue on West Washington Street to **#300** on the right on the west corner of Maple Heights. This building was built by Constant Cook in the 1840s as the Cooktown School for the children of the Cook family employees. Cooktown was a sizable community back then & this school was the nearest thing to a private school in Bath. Mr. Cook also allowed the black children from the village to attend his school.

39. Continue on West Washington Street to intersection with State Route 415 at traffic light where the driving tour began.

Total Miles: 8

For more information about Bath and/or Steuben County, visit the Steuben County Historical Society, located in the Magee House on the corner of West Morris and Cameron Streets. There, in addition to the items mentioned in #4, you will find driving tours to Mossy Bank Park and Lookout and to the Veterans Administration Medical Center and the Bath National Cemetery, as well as a walking tour of the Bath Historic District.



We are grateful to the **Bath Rotary Club**
for their assistance with printing and distributing
this leaflet.